

Concept X

M E D I A

Concept X Media

Julian Blair

PO Box 424

Groton, Massachusetts 01450

Office: 978.870.9676

conceptxmedia@gmail.com

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Guitarists Kevin Kastning & Mark Wingfield release new CD entitled "*Dark Sonatas*" on Greydisc Records

Kevin Kastning: 30-string Contra-Soprano Guitar, 16-String Contraguitar, 12-String Extended Baritone Guitar,
12-string Alto Guitar

Mark Wingfield: Electric Guitar

Kevin Kastning (USA) & Mark Wingfield (UK) are contemporary guitar explorers. The 13 new compositions on *Dark Sonatas* were impacted by the music of composer Elliott Carter, and reflect his music's energy and drive. *Guitar Player* magazine said of their 2011 Greydisc release *I walked into the silver darkness*: "Open-minded listeners who surrender to the music's subtle gravitational pull will find themselves entering hitherto unexplored realms of extraordinary beauty and multidimensionality." Mark Wingfield is an internationally recognized guitar virtuoso. Kevin Kastning invented the 30-string Contra-Soprano Guitar, the 16-string Contraguitar, and the 12-string Alto Guitar, all of which he plays on this new recording. Both players have been internationally acclaimed for their unique musical vision and innovative approaches to their instruments. This album invokes new landscapes of imagination and deep introspection using a palette of newly invented acoustic guitar-family instruments and individualistic electric guitar sounds to evoke a stunning beauty. *InnerViews* magazine said of their previous album, "One of the finest albums of this or any other year." WFMU radio in New York City named their two previous albums as one of their Favorite Albums of 2011 and 2012. *I walked into the silver darkness* was also the subject of a feature article in *Guitar Player* magazine.

Kevin Kastning Bio

During Kevin's time at Berklee College of Music in Boston, he studied privately with guitar legend Pat Metheny. Kevin has composed over 200 works for various solo and chamber group instrumentations. *Guitar Player* magazine stated, "Kevin is one of the deepest guitarists I've ever encountered." Genesis guitarist Steve Hackett said of Kevin, "I really love your style and atmospheres." Kevin is a recording artist for Greydisc Records, and has recorded various albums with Alex De Grassi, Michael Manring, and others. Kevin's albums consistently receive very strong reviews from music magazines worldwide; as well as international radio airplay. In 2012, *JazzTimes* magazine called Kevin "a revered guitarist." Kevin's 2012 Greydisc release "The Book of Crossings" was named as one of the Top 10 Albums of 2012 by *Acoustic Guitar* magazine. *Yankee Magazine* stated, "Kastning is a pioneer in modern acoustic guitar composition." "*Parabola*," Kevin's 2009 Greydisc release with guitarist Sandor Szabo was voted as one of the Best Albums of 2009 by NPR's "Pushing the Envelope" program. *Gondola Magazine (Hungary)* stated, "Kevin Kastning is a new figure of the American guitar scene; it is not an exaggeration that he is the most modern guitarist now in the US." In late 2009, Kevin completed a successful European concert tour with Dominic Miller, guitarist with Sting. Mr. Miller calls Kevin "An amazing player; completely original." In December 2010, Kevin was honored with a feature article in *Guitar Player* magazine. Kevin is the inventor of the 30-string Contra-Soprano guitar, DKK extended baritone guitar, the DKK-12 12-string extended baritone guitar, the double-course alto guitar in A, and the 17-string and 16-string Contraguitars. Various magazines worldwide have called Kevin "the most modern guitarist in the United States." Kevin is also an artist endorser for multiple instrument and recording equipment companies worldwide.

Mark Wingfield Bio

Mark is known equally as a musician and composer. As a guitarist and band leader, he has released six albums, four on the Dark Energy Music label. In the US, *Guitar Player Magazine* said "Mark Wingfield has created a unique electric guitar vocabulary... his playing is characteristically deep, nuanced, and inventive" a "celebrated British guitarist" and one of "England's most accomplished players." He has been commissioned to compose pieces for Internationally renowned classical musicians such as Kathryn Stott, Jane Chapman, Elaine Funaro, Geoffrey Burgess, Kate Ryder, McFall's Chamber as well as the BMIC's Cutting Edge Series, SPNM's Sound Source, the European Commission funded Waterways Celebration. Recent performances of his compositions include The Merkin Concert Hall, NYC, London (numerous), Birmingham Conservatoire, Manchester, Leeds and many more. His compositions have been featured in lectures at The Royal College of Music, Trinity Laban Conservatoire London, Goldsmiths College London to mark the opening of its new Contemporary Music Department, and others. Mark has recorded and performed with numerous celebrated jazz and classical musicians such as Jane Chapman, Kate Ryder, Thomas Strønen, Robert Mitchell, Yaron Stavi, and many others. Mark is a long time collaborator with ECM artist Iain Ballamy, their 2012 album being named LondonJazz best 10 albums of the year. Other accolades include: "Consistently brilliant and forward-thinking" *Guitar Player Magazine*, "Searingly eloquent electric guitar" *LondonJazz*, "Determination to take his instrument into previously unknown territory." Anil Prasad of *InnerViews*. Also known for pushing the technology envelope, Mark no longer uses conventional guitar amps, but instead has developed his own unique electric guitar sounds using new technology.

For more information, go to www.kevinkastning.com & www.markwingfield.com

**Press Contact: Concept X Media :: Julian Blair - Tel 978.870.9676
email: conceptxmedia@gmail.com**